

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5204

As Passed Senate, February 24, 2015

Title: An act relating to providing an exemption from hydraulic project permit fees for certain emergency permits.

Brief Description: Providing an exemption from hydraulic project permit fees for certain emergency permits.

Sponsors: Senators Parlette, Pearson and Warnick.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 1/22/15, 1/28/15 [DP].
Passed Senate: 2/24/15, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Pearson, Chair; Danel, Vice Chair; Hatfield, Ranking Minority Member; Chase, Hewitt, McAuliffe and Warnick.

Staff: Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

Background: Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPAs) Generally. An HPA is required for any project that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of any of the salt or fresh waters of the state. HPAs are issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for the stated purpose of ensuring the proper protection of fish life.

HPA Fees and Fee Exemptions. DFW must generally charge an application fee of \$150 for an HPA located at or below the ordinary high water line. Exemptions from the application fee are provided for project types including:

- pamphlet permits for aquatic noxious weed control and certain mineral prospecting activities;
- applicant-funded contracts;
- HPAs on farm and agricultural lands;
- forestry-related projects regulated under the Forest Practices Act; and
- mineral prospecting and mining activities.

The authority to impose the application fee expires June 30, 2017.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: No HPA fee is required for emergency permits where the project is necessitated by a natural disaster or phenomenon for which the Governor has declared a state of emergency.

The fee exemption applies to qualifying permits issued after August 1, 2014.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is one way the state can assist citizens impacted by natural disasters, such as the fires and landslides that occurred in 2014. The bill is beneficial to agency staff when trying to help people get back on their feet.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Parlette, prime sponsor; Jeff Davis, DFW.